

IMPORTANT DECISION IN RELATION TO THE NEW YORK PROHIBITION LAW.—Mayor Wood, of New York, being doubtful as to his duties in regard to the enforcement of the prohibition law, on Tuesday, April 10, 1885, called on the district attorney, for information and advice on the subject. The reply of that officer is important, and its conclusions may be stated thus:—

The Maine Law on the 1st of May nullifies all licenses and ordinances, touching the liquor traffic, as freely as may be, from that time till the 4th of July, the time when the new bill goes into effect. The district attorney says:—

I am of opinion that as the law will stand from May 1st to July 4th, of the old licenses expiring May 1st and no new ones permitted on the old system, to which the late pains and penalties attached, these latter are defunct. Until the 4th of July, all those who have been licensed to sell liquor, and not until that date are the new and suitable penalties that the Sunday law is affected by the same rule, so that from May 1st to Independence day the shops will be open on the Sabbath as usual.

The decision is of a character to make a noise in New York City, adding to the excitement which already exists on the subject of the prohibition law. The law considers it to be one great point gained, and it is while the friends of the measure seem to be quite indignant at the decision, having not the least idea that the very first effect of the new law would be to nullify all licenses, dispense with the Sunday law, and permit a grand saturnalia for the consumption of New York. Wednesday, a resolution to repeal the ordinance restricting the sale of intoxicating liquors on Sunday, was adopted on a vote of thirty-five to twenty-three; and another resolution to continue all liquor licenses in force up to the Fourth of July was referred to the corporation counsel for his opinion on its legality.

Navy Department.

Naval Medical Board.—The naval medical board for the examination of assistant surgeons in the navy for promotion, and of candidates for admission into the navy, has been dissolved, and the following is the result:

Assistant Surgeon Thomas B. Steele to rank next below Passed Assistant Surgeon Edward R. Squibb. Assistant Surgeon A. Nelson Bell next below Passed Assistant Surgeon J. Ward. Assistant Surgeon Charles F. Martin next below Passed Assistant Surgeon F. M. Gunnell. Assistant Surgeon Charles H. Williamson next below Passed Assistant Surgeon S. Allen Engles. Assistant Surgeon Edward Shippen next after C. H. Williamson.

The candidates for admission who passed a satisfactory examination are as follows, arranged according to merit:

No. 1. Albert S. Gibson, Pennsylvania. No. 2. John S. Keitch, Pennsylvania. No. 3. John Vansant, Virginia. No. 4. James Lawrence, Pennsylvania. No. 5. Edwin R. Denby, Virginia. No. 6. Wm. Johnson, Delaware. No. 7. Francis L. Galt, Virginia. No. 8. Stewart Kennedy, Pennsylvania. No. 9. Wm. M. Page, Virginia. No. 10. A. Clarkson Smith, Pennsylvania.

Democracy.

The following eloquent and deserved tribute to the Democratic party, we clip from a late number of the Ohio Statesman:

"The Democratic party cannot die—it is men may be defeated for a thousand causes that occur in the political elements of the country—its principles may be compromised—its very existence may be considered in jeopardy—but it cannot while there is a people to talk, to speak, to write. Every element in our political organization may change—constitutions may crumble—revolution may follow resolution—party names may rise one day to be buried the next—but the great principle of self-preservation opposed to bad principles, bad government, and bad men, will endure, whether in power or out of power, in triumph or in defeat, in prosperity or in adversity. Was there ever in the great principles around which Democrats rally as party basis, its extinction would long since have taken place 'for good,' and kings and crowns would be at ease forever from so dangerous an element."

The New York Tribune says the Ninney expedition has not been given up, but, on the contrary, his preparations have been urged forward with as much rapidity as the nature of the business and the difficulty of raising money would allow. The Tribune says:

"We learn that a proper quantity of Sharps' rifles has been procured, and packed for safe, and unimpeded dispatch to Greytown, while a considerable number of adventures follow, who understand the nature of the undertaking, each paying twenty-five dollars towards his outfit and passage, besides providing himself with necessary utensils in the shape of bowie knife and revolver. A steamer has been engaged at Philadelphia for the use of the expedition, and what is equally important, arrangements have been completed with Mr. William A. Walker, filibuster, late President of Lower California, and Commander-in-chief of the Army and Navy of the same, by which a body of men he is to bring from San Francisco, will co-operate with the force under Kinney. The plan of this exemplary undertaking is to conquer Nicaragua and Costa Rica at once, and Honduras as soon as possible."

Fanny Fern's Best Thing.—"Father is coming!" and little round faces grew long, and merry voices are hushed, and toys are hustled into the closet, and mamma goes nervously at the door, and the baby is huddled with a lump of sugar to keep the peace, and the little group stand in a row, and the mother's face is despatched as silently as if speaking were prohibited by the statute book, and the children creep like culprits to bed, marvelling that baby daren't so loud, now that "father has come."

"Father is coming," and bright eyes sparkle for joy, and tiny feet dance with glee, and eager faces are against the wino'w panes, and a bevy of rosy cheeks clamor for the mother and picture books lie unheeded on the table, and tops and balls, and dolls, and kites are discussed, and little Susy says her soft cheek against the paternal whiskers with the most fearless abandon, and Charley gets a lovepat for his 'medal,' and mamma's face grows radiant, and an evening paper is read, (not silently, but aloud,) and tea and toast and time vanish with equal celerity, for j'ubilee has arrived, and "father has come."

Willis on Inkstains.—Willis says to his "dear Morris," in the Home Journal:—

Pen-and-ink, as you know, is my alternative torment. From all that is less agreeable than I, I retire into it. My penmanship is less tempting—the weather-leaden-cold as well as cold, sour as well as wet. Even with a strong horse pawing in the stall, and these distant hills within reach of a gallop, this spattered little inkstand seems, to-day, a world more inviting. Life needs something of the sort, as much as an alternative to the pen and the picture book, even less at the moment of things. From discouraging byword, unprosperous love, failed ambition—from pride wounded or schemes defeated—dull hours in travel or bad weather at home—loneliness, poverty, sickness, sorrow—an inkstand, to turn to, is a refuge. Simple and uncouth, willing and never weary, it bears your story like a confidential friend, and, if you wish, tells it to the world. My ministering angel, I think, has always lodged in mine."

The High Price of Barakstuffs and Provisions is the subject of universal complaint. At Boston, but things in proportion. The New York Courier is of opinion that prices have reached their highest point, and that a decline will soon take place. It bases its opinion on the fact that there are one million hundred thousand bushels of flour to come forward from the harvest from the Western States and the State. Fifty thousand bushels of potatoes are on their way to the New York market from Nova Scotia, under the reciprocity law. The crop of potatoes in Nova Scotia last year was large. Free traders have, within a few weeks, opened this market to the farmers, and the chances are that a liberal supply will come forward, under the reciprocity law. At Oswego, the price of flour is \$1.40 per bushel, and is pouring in from Canada, bringing three days last week the receipts were as follows:—34,467 bushels, 34,465 bushels wheat; 85 bushels potatoes; 232,000 lbs. lumber, and 14 kegs butter.

Commodore McCauley's Instructions.—The Journal of Commerce gives the following version of Commodore McCauley's instructions:

The orders that have been given to Captain McCauley, however, of the most explicit and prudent character. He is not authorized to make any demands upon the Cuban government, nor to ask for any explanations with reference to the past; and even if he shall hear (not having himself witnessed the fact) that a vessel of the United States has been fired into, his instructions do not allow him to resent the affront, nor to take any notice of it whatsoever. It is his duty, however, to use indefatigable vigilance in protecting American commerce, and, if possible, to prevent any outrage from occurring under his own immediate observation. A higher bounty than has ever before been paid in our Navy, is now offered to seamen in order that Captain McCauley's squadron may be reinforced as rapidly as possible; but only in the case that a vessel under his command shall witness an attack upon one of our merchantmen, is he at liberty to retaliate. If so wanton and gratuitous an insult to this country should be offered, as firing upon an unarmed vessel of the United States, in presence of one of our men-of-war, Captain McCauley is instructed to chastise, and if possible to sink the aggressor, no matter what disparity of force may exist against him, while armed witnesses favorable to Spain may be present, or who claim to be such. This command is given in the name of the United States, in presence of one of our men-of-war, Captain McCauley is instructed to chastise, and if possible to sink the aggressor, no matter what disparity of force may exist against him, while armed witnesses favorable to Spain may be present, or who claim to be such.

The Journal makes this statement without disclosing the source from whence it was obtained, but with full faith in its correctness. As it is entirely beyond the bounds of probability that a Spanish cruiser will fire upon an American vessel in the presence of one of our national ships, the Commodore's mission may be regarded as a purely pacific character. We presume that any of the officers of our national vessels, if the witnesses of such a procedure, would not hesitate to pursue the same course without instructions.

Fire Engine.—For a long time we have been trying to induce the Railroad Companies to subscribe about two hundred dollars each, to purchase a fire engine at this place.

The Wilmington and Petersburg Companies agreed to it, and Dr. Collins said the Seaboard would subscribe as much as either. Mr. Branch will no doubt go into it and our citizens will all the work.

It was decided to occur here and destroy all the property the Railroad Companies own, they would write and send an engine and hose here a week, but as it is, we are much afraid they will wait two weeks, or send one at all.

Messrs. Ashe, Joyne, Br. nch, Collins, Fremont, Sharp, Beavers, and Hand! attend gentlemen all your Companies have property here to be protected. One fire engine may cost either Company the price of two or four engines, and in our opinion, it is worth a pound of cure." Send us an engine there, for, and we will protect your property. Attend to it once.—Weldon Patriot.

What is a Ton Weight?—The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania recently decided that according to the laws of that State a ton weight consisted of 2,000 lbs., and that a greater number of pounds could not be legally exacted in purchasing a ton of coal, notwithstanding the custom of giving 2,250 in one part of the State, and 2,268 in another. The United States District Court at Philadelphia, on Monday, however, decided in favor of the old standard weight of a ton of coal is 2,240 lbs., and that coal dealers have no more right to give less than grocers would have to give less than sixteen ounces to the pound.

As the constitution of the United States gives to Congress the power to "fix the standard of weights and measures," it is supposed that the act of 1834, passed by the Assembly in Pennsylvania, must yield to the act of Congress, and that the standard weight of a bushel and of a gallon are null and void where they differ from the United States standard.

To Pork Eat.—It is said that the Jews, Turks, Armenians, and all those who observe the precept of avoiding blood and swine's flesh, are infinitely more free from disease than Christians; more especially do they escape those obnoxious of the medical art, gout, scrofula, consumption and madness. The Turks eat great quantities of honey and pastry, and much sugar; they also eat largely and are indolent; yet do not suffer from dyspepsia as Christians do. The Jews, however, abstain from the system of the world, and abstain from a painful tubercular disease of the bowels (dysentery) than from any other cause—Those persons who abstain from swine's flesh and blood, are infinitely more healthy and free from humors, glandular diseases, dyspepsia and consumption; while in those districts and among those classes of men where there is no such abstention, the chief article of diet, swine's flesh, is the cause of many diseases, such as eyes and abscesses, must prevail. It is stated that Prince Edward's Island has a climate exactly similar to Great Britain, yet the inhabitants are not consumptive, neither is the pig there cultivated.

They brought him too much Gray.

We had quite a display of fish on our streets the other day, which were caught in the Pee Dee. Among them were several large sturgeon, and the sight of them reminded our friend from Fulton of a local tradition on the subject of the history of the fish. An old blacksmith once lived there, named Horn—perhaps. He was long, lank and cadaverous, and it was said of himself and his wife that they were never known to have enough to eat. Indeed, Horn's neighbors were somewhat in the habit of boasting of his capacities; and upon one occasion, inducing a little amiable rivalry on this score, they were inveigled into a bet. The opposition here Horn's friends that he, Horn, could not eat a sturgeon five feet long—more or less. Horn's friends accepted the bet, on the condition that the fish should be cooked palatably. The condition was accepted, and an early date was fixed for the trial. It is not impossible that the bet was made on this score, they were inveigled into a bet. 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